

Summary of the students' perceived strengths and weaknesses of the Communication Studies program

Below are comments that at least two people mentioned as a major strength or a weakness of the program in a final one-on-one interview with the department head. Thirty-four students were interviewed.

Strengths

Twenty-five students highlighted the professors as the major strength of the program.

- *Thirteen* of these focused primarily on the helpful, caring nature of the professors. These students noted that they felt the professors knew them personally and that they felt comfortable talking to their professors.
- *Twelve* focused primarily on the teaching expertise of the professors, that the classes were well organized and engaging.

Thirteen students discussed the applicable nature of the material taught. They focused on how the material could be applied to a wide range of situations and relationships.

Eleven students noted that the major had improved their skill-set in terms of being able to communicate effectively in various situations.

Nine students highlighted the sense of community and the supportive, friendly environment.

Six students commented on the diversity of perspectives they were exposed to and the wide variety of courses offered.

Four students discussed that it had brought a greater understanding of themselves and those with whom they interact.

Three students mentioned the wide variety of jobs the major prepared them for.

Two commented on the flexibility of program.

Weaknesses (when asked what the weaknesses of the program were virtually every student made some comment about it being hard to say because there were a lot more strengths than weaknesses and they struggled a bit to come up with weaknesses)

Five students wanted the following:

- A greater number of “advanced” courses that built on other courses, such as the courses on public speaking, conflict, and organizational communication.

- More guidance on career paths.

Four students expressed the following:

- There are no weaknesses.
- Classes were sometimes difficult to get into, so we need to offer more.
- It would be good to have statistics course that would double as a QI course and that would better help them understand and do research.
- It would be nice to get more information on the best way to explain the nature of the major to other people (family, friends, employers).

Two students noted the following:

- They would like to see a graduate program in Communication Studies.
- They would like to see more internship opportunities.
- We should hire more professors.
- Some of the courses could use better titles.